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Volunteer Driver Program Up and Running!

After many months of planning and development the Volunteer Driver Program is now up and running. Since March of this year a committee of staff and representatives from the Senior Center Association and the Commission on Aging has been working to develop the program, and a key component fell into place with the hiring of a coordinator in October. Our new coordinator is Gianna Stebbins, a resident of Willington who has an extensive background in customer service. Gianna is excited about starting a new program, and sees it as an opportunity to "implement something brand new that will meet an important need for Mansfield's seniors."

The goal of the program is to supplement existing senior transportation services such as Dial-A-Ride, the fixed route bus service and services offered through our Municipal Grant. One of Gianna's tasks will be to integrate this program with existing services to make sure that every rider is receiving the most appropriate and cost-effective service.

This new program is available to all residents of Mansfield age 60 and older, and rides are provided both locally and out-of-town to a variety of destinations. While there is no charge for rides, donations are accepted to help to support program expenses. At this time priority will be given to individuals who need rides to medical appointments locally, but we will expand this as more drivers become available.

Another key task for Gianna will be to recruit a pool of volunteer drivers. We currently have twelve drivers who have been cleared to participate, and we will continue to be looking for more. Volunteers may drive their own vehicle, or may use one of the Town's cars for this program. If you use your own car mileage reimbursement will be offered. If you are interested in volunteering your time as a driver, or if you need a ride, please call Gianna at 429-0262, X 2. At this time we expect that we will need at least 48 hours notice for any trips, so please leave a message on the voicemail and Gianna will get back to you to finalize plans for your trip. Thank you for supporting this important new program!

Point of Contact: GIANNA STEBBINS, VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
HUMAN SERVICES/SENIOR SERVICES
860 429-0262, EXT.2

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